

**BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**In the Matter of the Accusation )  
Against: )**

**STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D. )**

**File No. 800-2014-009601**

**Physician's and Surgeon's )  
Certificate No. G 57663 )**

**Respondent )**

**DECISION AND ORDER**

**The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.**

**This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on August 3, 2018.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED July 5, 2018.**

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**

**By:**



**Kristina D. Lawson, J.D., Chair  
Panel B**

1 XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
3 BRIAN D. BILL  
Deputy Attorney General  
4 State Bar No. 239146  
California Department of Justice  
5 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
6 Telephone: (213) 269-6461  
Facsimile: (213) 897-9395  
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12 In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2014-009601

13 **STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D.**  
371 Frys Harbor Drive  
Camarillo, CA 93012-9186

OAH No. 2017060379

14 **Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.**  
15 **G 57663,**

**STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND  
DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

16 Respondent.

17 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-  
18 entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:

19 **PARTIES**

20 1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board  
21 of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in  
22 this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Brian D. Bill,  
23 Deputy Attorney General.

24 2. Respondent STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this  
25 proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon, Esq., whose address is: 5440 Trabuco Road  
26 Irvine, California 92620.

27 3. On or about July 1, 1986, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No.  
28 G 57663 to STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's

1 Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation  
2 No. 800-2014-009601, and will expire on May 31, 2020, unless renewed.

3 JURISDICTION

4 4. Accusation No. 800-2014-009601 was filed before the Board, and is currently  
5 pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were  
6 properly served on Respondent on April 14, 2017. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense  
7 contesting the Accusation.

8 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2014-009601 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated  
9 herein by reference.

10 ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

11 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the  
12 charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2014-009601. Respondent has also carefully read,  
13 fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and  
14 Disciplinary Order.

15 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a  
16 hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine  
17 the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right  
18 to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of  
19 documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other  
20 rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

21 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and  
22 every right set forth above.

23 CULPABILITY

24 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation  
25 No. 800-2014-009601, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his  
26 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.

27 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of  
28 further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual

1 basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest  
2 those charges.

3 11. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to  
4 discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the  
5 Disciplinary Order below.

6 RESERVATION

7 12. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this  
8 proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other  
9 professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or  
10 civil proceeding.

11 CONTINGENCY

12 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California.  
13 Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical  
14 Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and  
15 settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the  
16 stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek  
17 to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails  
18 to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
19 Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal  
20 action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having  
21 considered this matter.

22 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile  
23 copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile  
24 signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.

25 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that  
26 the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following  
27 Disciplinary Order:

28 //

**DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

1. **PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 57663 issued to Respondent Steve J. Villarreal, M.D. shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded. This public reprimand is based upon the facts as set forth in Accusation No. 800-2014-009601.

2. **CLINICAL COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.** Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a clinical competence assessment program approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Respondent shall successfully complete the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to an extension of that time.

The program shall consist of a comprehensive assessment of Respondent's physical and mental health and the six general domains of clinical competence as defined by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and American Board of Medical Specialties pertaining to Respondent's current or intended area of practice. The program shall take into account data obtained from the pre-assessment, self-report forms and interview, and the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and any other information that the Board or its designee deems relevant. The program shall require Respondent's on-site participation for a minimum of three (3) and no more than five (5) days as determined by the program for the assessment and clinical education evaluation. Respondent shall pay all expenses associated with the clinical competence assessment program.

At the end of the evaluation, the program will submit a report to the Board or its designee which unequivocally states whether the Respondent has demonstrated the ability to practice safely and independently. Based on Respondent's performance on the clinical competence assessment, the program will advise the Board or its designee of its recommendation(s) for the scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, evaluation or treatment for any medical condition or psychological condition, or anything else affecting Respondent's practice of medicine. Respondent shall comply with the program's recommendations.

Determination as to whether Respondent successfully completed the clinical competence

1 assessment program is solely within the program's jurisdiction.

2 Failure to attend and complete the required program shall constitute general unprofessional  
3 conduct and shall be grounds for further disciplinary action.

4 ACCEPTANCE

5 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully  
6 discussed it with my attorney, Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the  
7 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated  
8 Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be  
9 bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

10  
11 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

12 STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D.  
13 *Respondent*

14 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D. the terms  
15 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
16 Order. I approve its form and content.

17  
18 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

19 RAYMOND J. MCMAHON, ESQ.  
20 *Attorney for Respondent*

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //

1 assessment program is solely within the program's jurisdiction.

2 Failure to attend and complete the required program shall constitute general unprofessional  
3 conduct and shall be grounds for further disciplinary action.

4 ACCEPTANCE


5 I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully  
6 discussed it with my attorney, Raymond J. McMahon, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the  
7 effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated  
8 Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be  
9 bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

10  
11 DATED: 5-21-18

  
STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D.  
Respondent

12  
13  
14 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent STEVE J. VILLARREAL, M.D. the terms  
15 and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary  
16 Order. I approve its form and content.

17  
18 DATED: May 23, 2018

  
RAYMOND J. MCMAHON, ESQ.  
Attorney for Respondent

19  
20 //

21 //

22 //

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

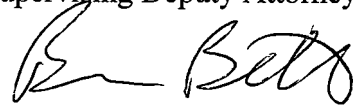
ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

Dated: 5-23-18

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General



BRIAN D. BILL  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

LA2017504565  
52903441



**Exhibit A**

**Accusation No. 800-2014-009601**

FILED  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
SACRAMENTO April 14 20 17  
BY R. Voong ANALYST

XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General of California  
JUDITH T. ALVARADO  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General  
BRIAN D. BILL  
Deputy Attorney General  
State Bar No. 239146  
California Department of Justice  
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
Telephone: (213) 897-9474  
Facsimile: (213) 897-9395  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

BEFORE THE  
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

Case No. 800-2014-009601

**Steve J. Villarreal, M.D.**  
**18685 Main Street, STE 101-412**  
**Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

**A C C U S A T I O N**

**Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate**  
**No. G 57663,**

Respondent.

Complainant alleges:

**PARTIES**

1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).

2. On or about July 1, 1986, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 57663 to Steve J. Villarreal, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on May 31, 2018, unless renewed.

//

//

1 **JURISDICTION**

2 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following  
3 laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

4 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the  
5 Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed  
6 one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other  
7 action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.

8 5. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

9 "The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional  
10 conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not  
11 limited to, the following:

12 "....

13 "(b) Gross negligence.

14 "...

15 "(d) Incompetence.

16 "...."

17 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 6. Between November 2010 and March 2016, Respondent was employed as a part-time  
19 physician at the Ocean Medical Group (OMG). Respondent treated OMG patients on Mondays,  
20 Wednesdays, and every other Sunday.

21 7. S.M.<sup>1</sup> was a patient of OMG and was treated by Respondent on two occasions,  
22 December 12, 2012, and December 4, 2013.

23 December 12, 2012 Visit

24 8. On December 12, 2012, S.M. was seen by Respondent for medication refill for a prior  
25 diagnosis of hypertension. Respondent noted a family history of aortic aneurysm and notes a  
26 history of elevated triglycerides. A diagnosis of hypertension and hyperlipidemia was made.

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> In this accusation the patients are referred to by initial to protect their privacy.

1 S.M.'s prescription for Lisinopril was refilled for 4 months and he was instructed to keep a blood  
2 pressure diary and return in 4 months.

3 Intervening Visits

4 9. On May 2, 2013, S.M. was seen by a physician for a medication refill for  
5 hypertension and a follow up of an infection on his right hand.

6 10. On May 18, 2013, S.M. was seen by a Physician Assistant for suture removal from a  
7 right hand laceration. The note was cosigned by Respondent.

8 11. On July 23, 2013, he was seen by a Physician Assistant for blood pressure check and  
9 blood work.

10 December 4, 2013 Visit

11 12. On December 4, 2013, S.M. returned for a blood pressure check. S.M. complained of  
12 increased heart rate, decreased stamina, and erectile dysfunction. It was noted that S.M. had a  
13 family history of hypertension. Home blood pressure readings were reported at systolic 130-140  
14 and diastolic 60-70.

15 13. A physical examination revealed a temperature of 98.1, pulse of 112, respiratory rate  
16 of 16, blood pressure of 130/60, pulse oximetry of 99%, and weight of 216 lbs. The pulse rate  
17 was circled.

18 14. An electrocardiogram result was obtained and an "unconfirmed interpretation" of  
19 sinus arrhythmia with a heart rate of 88 beats per minute was noted and is signed by Respondent.

20 15. Laboratory tests were ordered, including a lipid panel, AST/ALT,<sup>2</sup> Chem 6,<sup>3</sup>  
21 hemoglobin<sup>4</sup> and hematocrit,<sup>5</sup> and TSH.<sup>6</sup> Laboratory results showed an elevated triglyceride of  
22 259, which is circled and noted to be "high," an AST and ALT of 113 and 81, circled and noted to  
23 be "very high" and a chemistry panel with Glucose circled at 127 and noted to be "high." The  
24 hemoglobin was 5.4 grams and hematocrit was 16%. Respondent made no notations regarding

25 <sup>2</sup> A blood test used to detect liver damage.

26 <sup>3</sup> A battery of 6 serum analytes commonly ordered as part of a routine 'stat' profile: Na+,  
K+, Cl-, CO2, glucose, urea nitrogen.

27 <sup>4</sup> The oxygen-carrying protein pigment in the blood, specifically in the red blood cells.

28 <sup>5</sup> The proportion, by volume, of the blood that consists of red blood cells.

<sup>6</sup> Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone.

1 these results. However, they are considered "markedly abnormal." A separate notation indicates  
2 that S.M. was to return in 1 week, fast, and to make an appointment to discuss treatment options.  
3 An option was made to "mail" or "telephone" results to the patient and it is noted to "mail" the  
4 results.

5 16. A diagnosis was made of "Chronic Medication Use, Stable Hypertension, and Erectile  
6 Dysfunction. S.M.'s hypertension medication was refilled. He was instructed to follow up in one  
7 week.

8 17. According to Respondent, he received the laboratory results with the abnormal  
9 hemoglobin and hematocrit values when he returned to work on December 9 or December 11,  
10 2013. Respondent did not indicate on the laboratory report the abnormal hemoglobin and  
11 hematocrit. Respondent stated that when he reviewed the lab findings he was not concerned as he  
12 felt that S.M. was stable at his exam on December 4, healthy and asymptomatic. However,  
13 S.M.'s symptoms of decreased stamina and elevated heart rate were an indication of symptoms  
14 related to S.M.'s anemia. Respondent failed to identify these symptoms related to S.M.'s anemia.

15 Subsequent Treatment Dates

16 18. On December 12, 2013, S.M. was seen at OMG by another physician for a complaint  
17 of ear pain and was diagnosed with serous otitis media.

18 19. On or about December 17, 2013, S.M. presented to the Torrance Memorial Medical  
19 Center with sudden onset of severe, left sided abdominal pain. He was diagnosed with  
20 autoimmune hemolytic anemia.

21 20. On or about December 24, 2013, S.M. died due to complications related to  
22 autoimmune hemolytic anemia.

23 Standard of Care - appropriate follow up of abnormal laboratory tests.

24 21. The standard of care requires that a physician identify abnormal laboratory tests and  
25 take the appropriate action on abnormal findings in a timely manner.

26 //

27 //

28 //

1        Standard of Care - appropriate patient notification of abnormal laboratory tests.

2        22. The standard of care requires that a physician identify abnormal laboratory test results  
3 and take appropriate action to notify the patient of those results in a timely manner.

4        Standard of Care - appropriate recognition of clinical pathology based on clinical history,  
5 physical examination, and review of laboratory findings.

6        23. The standard of care requires that a physician review laboratory tests ordered and  
7 interpret them in the context of the patient's history, physical examination, and diagnoses.

8                                **FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

9                                **(Unprofessional Conduct - Gross Negligence)**

10        24. Respondent Steve J. Villarreal, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section  
11 2234, subdivision (b) in that Respondent failed to properly diagnose S.M. and failed to properly  
12 respond to abnormal test results. The circumstances are as follows:

13        25. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein paragraphs 6 through  
14 23, above, as though set forth in full.

15                                **SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

16                                **(Unprofessional Conduct - Incompetence)**

17        26. Respondent Steve J. Villarreal, M.D. is subject to disciplinary action under section  
18 2234, subdivision (d) in that Respondent failed to properly diagnose S.M. and failed to properly  
19 respond to abnormal test results. The circumstances are as follows:

20        27. Complainant refers to and, by this reference, incorporates herein paragraphs 6 through  
21 23, above, as though set forth in full.

22        //

23        //

24        //

25        //

26        //

27        //

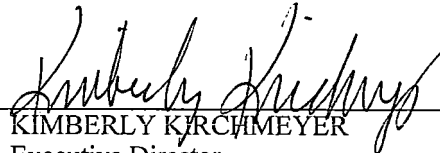
28        //

**PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 57663, issued to Steve J. Villarreal, M.D.;
2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Steve J. Villarreal, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
3. Ordering Steve J. Villarreal, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: April 14, 2017

  
KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER  
Executive Director  
Medical Board of California  
Department of Consumer Affairs  
State of California  
*Complainant*

LA2017504565  
62310523.doc